



Noelle L. Howard

Instructor

Voice, Violin, Piano, Acting

Noelle L. Howard has enjoyed an extensive career in the arts, working as a vocalist, violinist and actress. Her teaching experience includes 30+ years in a variety of settings and ages. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Nazarene College in Massachusetts, where she was a Communication Arts major (theatre emphasis) and music minor. During her time there, she was an active member of the A Cappella Choir and the Madrigals, and extensively toured the United States and Europe. Noelle was also selected to star in the lead role of Christine in PHANTOM, based on Gaston Leroux's 1910 novel *The Phantom of the Opera*.

After graduation, she moved to Indiana and performed with the Butler University Choir, including a choral festival held in Nancy, France. She was also tasked with creating a wide curriculum and teaching after school and summer programs for the Park Tudor School campus. This allowed Noelle to incorporate her knowledge in the arts to further the education of young children, an invaluable experience.

In 1997, she relocated to Maryland, where she auditioned for and was accepted into the widely-renowned National Christian Choir based in Washington, D.C. During her tenure, she was a regular featured soloist, performing for many high-profile events, both to live and media audiences. Ms. Howard was also active in performing for weddings, fundraisers and political events. Most notably, she was hand picked to provide music for a reception for former Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert.

Her creativity and teaching skills were, once again, called upon, as she was tasked to coordinate several Vacation Bible Schools through her church. In addition to this, Noelle created, directed and performed for numerous liturgical dramas as well as coordinated and trained participants in biblical readings, which were an integral addition to the ministry of the church at that time.

Since her arrival in Colorado Springs, Ms. Howard has remained active as a performer. Her experience since moving to Colorado includes singing for several years with the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Glen Eyrie Madrigal Singers. She was hired as a soprano section leader for choral groups connected to Colorado College during that time. She has also taught voice and theater at the Colorado Music Conservatory as well as Haven School. She began building Fine Tune Arts Studio over 8 years ago, which serves students of all ages beginning at age 5. She also formed the musical duo PRISM along with Gerald L. Welker. Together they provide professional music for any special occasion.



Gerald L. Welker

Instructor

Horn, Voice, Piano, Acting

Gerald L. Welker is in high demand as a performer, teacher, and clinician, having performed as a guest artist and having held numerous master classes at several universities throughout the U.S., Europe, and at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Mr. Welker earned both his bachelors and masters degrees in horn performance from the University of Alabama. He held the graduate teaching assistantship and performed as principal horn with the Alabama Wind Ensemble, the symphony orchestra, and the contemporary ensemble.

Along with his duties at the university, Gerald maintained a busy performing schedule. He was principal horn with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Associate Principal/3rd Horn with the Macon Symphony Orchestra, and the Assistant Principal Horn with the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra. He was also the principal hornist of the Orvieto Musica Music Workshop in Orvieto, Italy for two summers. Mr. Welker has performed as a soloist with the Alabama Wind Ensemble, the Marquette Wind Ensemble, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Academy of Music Horn Ensemble, the United States Air Force, Band of Mid-America, and the United States Air Force Academy Band.

Gerald has performed as a featured artist at numerous workshops, most notable being the 37th Annual International Horn Society Summer Symposium, the 2009 Southeast Horn Workshop, and twice for the Hornswoggle Workshop, held at Hummingbird Music Camp in Jemez Springs, NM. He has been named both the National Federation of Music Club's Brass Soloist of the Year, and a 2001 Yamaha Young Performing Artist. He was also the top-prize winner at the 2001 American Horn Competition (University Division). In 2007, Mr. Welker was named the 2nd Prize Winner at the International Horn Competition of America (Professional Division).

Along with other honors, Gerald has performed on numerous occasions with the world-renowned TransAtlantic Horn Quartet, including a live performance on BBC Radio, celebrating the life of composer, Michael Tippett. Since 2006, he has held the position of Principal Horn with the United States Air Force, Band of Mid-America, The United States Air Force Academy Band, and The United States Air Force Band, Europe based in Ramstein, Germany. Currently, he performs as a hornist with the United States Air Force Academy Band in Colorado Springs, CO, where he also serves as Drum Major. Mr. Welker is a proud Siegfriedscall Artist.

As for his acting/voice background, he grew up performing with the Alabama and American Boy Choirs, and has performed key roles in numerous stage productions. His most notable role was as Amahl in Amahl and the Night Visitors. His most recent experience is as a featured vocalist with the Air Force Academy Band and several seasons with the Glen Eyrie Madrigal singers, as well as his performances with PRISM as a vocalist and pianist.